(b) The Vessels Traffic System (VTS) project in the Gulf of Kutch consists of civil engineering work and supply and installation of VTS equipment. The civil engineering work comprising construction of radar towers and ancillary buildings is in progress and the Factory Acceptance Test for the VTS equipment has been carried out.

(c) The project has been awarded to the consortium led by M/s. Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd., a Government of India Enterprise under the Department of Telecommunications. Other consortium partners are M/s. HITT, Holland (for VTS equipment) and M/s. M. L. Dalmiya and Co. (for civil engineering work).

(d) The time overrun of the project is 18 months.

(e) The delay is due to the slow progress in the civil engineering work.

(f) The project is likely to be completed by October, 2008.

Work on Rangiya to Tamulpur road in Assam

1521. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of work on the road between Rangiya to Tamulpur of Kamrup district, Assam;

(b) the estimated amount of funds allocated and implementing agencies engaged for the said road; and

(c) the stipulated time, if any, to complete the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has informed that the Army Headquarters have endorsed the improvement of Rangiya to Tamulpur road to National Highways double lane specifications in December, 2007 and the works have been planned for commencement during 2007-08. The estimated cost of the improvement of this 48.6 km road has been assessed as Rs. 52.60 crore by BRO, subject to finalisation of the estimates and an amount of Rs 50 lakh has been provisioned for expenditure during 2007-08 under GS funding. The target date of completion as informed by BRO is March, 2011.

CRF (State Roads) Rules, 2007

1522. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SNAGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued new CRF (State Roads) Rules, 2007;

(b) whether issues regarding practicability of these rules are raised by States would cause delays in the implementation of projects in the States;

(c) whether Government is taking necessary steps for timely release of funds under CRF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One third of the current year's allocation is placed at the disposal of the States/ Union Territories in advance for utilization against sanctioned works and subsequent installments are released on the basis of progress and actual expenditure on works.

Cess on cargo

1523. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for levy of cess on all cargo handled in the country, is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the probable rates of cess on cargo;

(c) whether Government would like to consult the Maritime States before finalizing the policy; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the financial drain on State resources is proposed to be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Four-laning of NH-44

1524. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of highways that have been undertaken to broaden and develop during the year 2007-08;

(b) the status of four-laning of the NH-44; and

(c) the targeted period to complete the four-laning of NH-44?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) On 151 nos. of National Highways (NHs) improvement works including widening and strengthening were undertaken during the year 2007-08. The details are given in statement-I (*See* below)

(b) A total of 577 km. of NH-44 is envisaged to be 4-laned. Out of which, 252 km passing through the State of Meghalaya & Assam is envisaged to be 4 laned on Build, Operate and Transfer BOT (Toll) basis under National Highway Development Project-III (NHDP III). Remaining 325 km passing through the State of Tripura is envisaged to be 4 laned under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East phase-A (SARDP-NE Phase A) on Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contract (EPC) basis. The details of the projects are enclosed at statement II (*See* below) The Detailed Project Reports (DPR) are under preparation.

(c) SARDP-NE Phase A and NHDP III are targeted for completion in March, 2012 and December, 2013 respectively.